

True Blue - Freedom

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January 26, 2002

Renata B. Hesse
Fax 202-616-9937

Dear Renata:

While I am pleased that the Tunney Act allows me to make an input on behalf of True Blue's membership across America in regard to the proposed Microsoft settlement, I want to be candid. The federal government's pursuit of Microsoft damaged consumers and the economy, as follows:

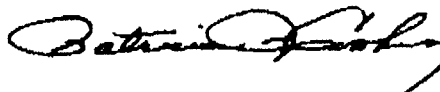
- Consumers paid more than \$30 million in taxes to sue a company that has consistently created and marketed better products at a lower cost.
- Investors lost millions more as the tech sector of the stock market sagged under the impact of the threat to break up Microsoft, adding impetus to a recession.
- Taxpayers, whose interests are the key priority of lawmakers, paid lawmakers and attorneys' salaries to work on behalf of the competitors of Microsoft. (Personally, I'm not sure I'll ever want to buy products from companies that whine to the Papa Feds to secure taxpayer funding of their marketplace fights.)

Asking Microsoft to hire a staff and provide offices for a bureaucracy to enforce the settlement is simply using a socialist mechanism to control an industry. At best, such an office should exist no longer than 12-18 months, and then be completely terminated. If Congress determines a need for such an agency, we can place the idea before Congress, debate the law, and vote. The Court must not become a bureaucracy-creating and bureaucracy-enforcing entity.

Every State Attorney General who continues in this suit clearly morphs his/her office into a collection arm grabbing for taxpayer dollars. It is disturbing that the Attorneys General, who are funded by taxpayers at the state level, are grasping for families' earnings at the federal level, too.

We urge you to end this matter and allow Microsoft to return to what it does best: innovating to serve consumers. Consumers will see that Microsoft offers flexibility and demonstrates its resolve to become an ever better industry leader.

Yours truly,



Patricia R. Cooksey, President

True Blue - Maintaining our Freedom!
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